

THE QUEENSLAND MUSEUM, 1855-1955.

GEORGE MACK.

Queensland Museum.

Permanent settlement came to Brisbane, then part of the Moreton Bay district of New South Wales, in 1842 when the first land sales were held. Twelve years later men were considering ways and means of establishing a museum of natural sciences. At the time, there were no municipalities, and the district only had a Police Magistrate (Captain J. C. Wickham) representing authority in Brisbane. It is greatly to the credit of these early settlers who, in a relatively crude and small settlement, were keen to advance the things of the mind. Men of this calibre were not exceptional in the small communities of the early days.

Allan Cunningham, botanist and explorer, initiated the spread of settlement northwards when he journeyed from the Liverpool Plains to the Darling Downs, about one hundred miles west of the settlement on Moreton Bay. Men with sheep and cattle followed through and out to the north and west. One of the first, and reported to be the third party to move sheep overland to the Darling Downs, was Charles Coxen. Coxen had emigrated in 1836 to New South Wales from England. Before long he had taken up land near Scone in the Upper Hunter River district, where his brother, Stephen, had settled a few years earlier, and it was from here that he moved north to the Darling Downs in the early 1840's. This was the man who took the lead in founding the Queensland Museum in 1855.

Coxen was a keen naturalist. He had collected and prepared many specimens of Australian birds for his brother-in-law, John Gould. Probably the presence of the Coxen brothers in Australia encouraged Gould to visit this country to see something of the land and to collect material. He stayed with the brothers in the Hunter River district for some time in 1840, and he made good use of the specimens obtained there in the preparation of his magnificent folio work on the Birds of Australia. It is of interest to record in passing that a good copy of this eight-volume work to-day, when available, costs about £A800.

CHARLES COXEN AND THE PERIOD 1855-1876.

Charles Coxen was born in Kent on 20th April, 1809. His parents, Nicholas and Elizabeth Coxen had nine children of whom five died in infancy. The eldest of the four surviving children, Henry, became an officer in the Army and died as a result of an illness contracted at Waterloo. This left Stephen, who migrated to New South Wales in 1827; Elizabeth, who became Mrs. John Gould; and Charles, who followed his brother to New South Wales in 1836.

When Charles Coxen moved north to the Darling Downs, he settled on a property at Jondaryan, about thirty miles west of the present city of Toowoomba. There is little detailed information about him at this stage, but apparently fortune did not altogether favour him. He married Elizabeth Isaac of Gloucestershire, England, in 1851, and between bouts of ill-health he is known to have taken up two other properties on the Darling Downs at different times. Finally, he came to reside permanently in Brisbane in 1861. Two years later he was elected to represent the Northern Downs district in the infant parliament of the colony and was appointed Chairman of Committees, an office which he held until 1867.

He was then appointed a Commissioner for Crown Lands in the Moreton district near Brisbane, and inspecting Commissioner for the settled areas of the Darling Downs. Upright and just in character, Coxen readily gained the esteem and respect of all with whom he came in contact. He continued his official duties until shortly before his death in 1876 at the age of sixty-seven years. Throughout the period 1855-1876 he was Honorary Curator and Secretary of the Queensland Museum. His widow died in 1906; there were no children.

Coxen was the moving force in collecting and preparing specimens for the purpose of establishing a public museum in Queensland. A beginning was made in 1855 when official permission was given for the use of some rooms at the signal station on a hill above the river to house the collections and cases already on hand. It has been generally assumed that the space granted was actually within the windmill or signal station as it was then known, but it is highly probable that the "rooms" were in a building within the grounds of the station. The windmill, on Wickham Terrace, is now preserved as an historical landmark, and it can readily be seen that there is little space within, while the associated wooden building, commonly shown in old photographs, no longer stands.

When this first accommodation was provided, permanent settlement had been established for thirteen years and the population of Brisbane was about four thousand. In 1859, Queensland was declared a separate colony and Brisbane became the capital. The Philosophical Society of Queensland (forerunner of the present Royal Society) was formed in the same year, and the first Governor of the Colony,

Sir George Ferguson Bowen became its first president, with Charles Coxen as vice-president. The Society was inaugurated in March, 1859, and it is apparent from the first annual report that the members were strongly behind the efforts to provide a public museum. Reference is made to the existing nucleus of collections, the use of the rooms at the signal station granted by the government, and tribute is paid to Messrs. Coxen, Rawnsley, Waller and others for material contributed. It is recorded that additional suitable cases were purchased to house the collections, and this expense may well have been met from money given by the government to advance the aims of the Society.

With the support of the Philosophical Society, efforts to have a suitable building erected continued to be made. In 1863 a site was granted near the entrance to the "Government Domain," but no immediate progress resulted. The collections were growing, and this must have afforded many problems to Coxen whose labour in "setting up valuable specimens of birds" is acknowledged, and it is recorded that "the fine collection of shells belonging to that gentleman still continues to adorn the Society's rooms." The government was not unsympathetic; it provided a variety of temporary accommodation for the collections as well as funds for maintenance. Two rooms were assigned in the Parliamentary Building in 1871 for the display of portion of the geological material. This building, which had previously been a barracks, was situated in Queen Street where Allan and Stark's department store is to-day. Here the collection of rocks, minerals, and fossils was arranged by D'Oyley H. Aplin, first Government Geologist of southern Queensland. Naturally, the authorities at the time were most concerned with economic aspects of settlement; the discovery of gold, for example, had already given a great uplift to development in other Colonies to the south.

In the following year, considerable additional space was provided in the first General Post Office building, close to the Parliamentary Building in Queen Street, and the possibility that the government would agree to the erection of a museum building was brighter. The matter had been for some time a subject of parliamentary discussion.

Brisbane by this time had a population of 15,000, and the number throughout the Colony was about 125,000.

A collection of Queensland plants was being brought together within the Museum, and in 1874, Frederick Manson Bailey was appointed Keeper of the Herbarium. Bailey went on to become a notable figure first as Colonial Botanist and finally as Government Botanist in Queensland. He entered upon his work as Keeper under Charles Coxen, the Honorary Curator. At the same period, and probably before F. M. Bailey's appointment, K. T. Staiger, who was Government Analyst, became, in addition, Custodian of the Queensland Museum.

In 1875, the staunch efforts of Coxen and members of the Philosophical Society were crowned by the decision of the authorities to appoint a Board of Trustees for the Museum, and the much more important decision to erect a building at a cost of £11,000. From the records available the impression is gained that at no time had the authorities been difficult in this matter; indeed, they had been consistently helpful. Time and circumstances were the overriding factors. The parliament had to make laws for the good government of a new and large State with all sorts of unforeseen needs and difficulties arising daily.

The Board of Trustees was appointed in February, 1876. Charles Coxen was a member, A. C. Gregory, at various times member of Parliament, explorer and Surveyor-General, was Chairman, and K. T. Staiger became Secretary to the Board. During the ten months, from February to December, 1876, fifteen meetings were held, and in the first Annual Report the Board remarked upon the Museum and its collections as follows: "In regard to the condition of the Museum at the time the present Trustees entered on their charge, they desire to record their opinion, that taking into consideration the great difficulties their predecessors had to encounter, the condition and arrangement of the collection reflects the highest credit on their administration." Charles Coxen died in this year, and the Trustees recorded their sincere regret on the passing of one "whose labours in developing the natural history of Australia are so well known to the scientific world, and who may be considered the principal founder of the Queensland Museum." This was indeed a serious loss. Coxen was the only man with any knowledge of museum collections, and there was no trained member of staff upon whom the Trustees could depend.

1876-1900.

Although the collections were scattered, it is apparent that the public was finding them useful and interesting. This is well shown by the record of 30,000 visitors to the display in the accommodation in the General Post Office building in 1876. Despite the public response and the co-operation of the authorities, in the second Annual Report the Trustees recorded that, "No great progress in the development of the institution under the control of the Trustees can be expected, or is it possible, in the present existing temporary condition of the Museum premises and material at their command." The real difficulty was that the well-intentioned Trustees were endeavouring to manage an institution about which they had little knowledge. Their greatest need was for trained staff.

The new building in William Street was ready for occupation before the end of 1878, and the collections were transferred to it the following year. In January, 1880, W. A. Haswell, M.A., B.Sc. of Edinburgh, was appointed Curator at a salary

of £200 per annum. How Haswell came to be available for appointment is not known, but there is no doubt that the salary provided was far too small. He held the position from January, 1880 to November of the same year, when he accepted the Chair of Biology in the University of Sydney. This is the man whose name, together with that of Parker, is so well known through the text books which they produced on zoology. Even had his salary been three times greater, it is probable that Haswell would have gone to Sydney. Nevertheless, the amount was far too meagre for the position.

Following Haswell's departure, F. M. Bailey, Keeper of the Herbarium associated with the museum, performed the duties of Curator from December, 1880 to March, 1882, when Charles Walter De Vis, B.A. (Cantab.), was conditionally appointed Curator. This appointment, which was made on recommendation of the Rev. J. E. Tenison Wood, was confirmed later in the same year. De Vis was born in Birmingham, England on 9th May, 1829, and therefore was fifty-three years of age when he commenced his work in the Queensland Museum. He had been educated at Edward VI Grammar School, Birmingham and Magdalen College, Cambridge. On graduating, he was ordained and entered the Church of England, but his enthusiasm for natural history led him to accept the position of Curator of a small museum in England. This would appear to have been in the period 1865-1870. In June, 1870, he sailed for Australia. He resided for a time near Rockhampton and later in the Clermont district, Queensland. After a visit to England, he became librarian at the School of Arts in Rockhampton, and at this time he contributed articles on the local geology and bird life to a weekly newspaper. The museum required able and forceful leadership, but one cannot avoid the impression that De Vis would have been happier in a secluded room describing fossil and recent vertebrate animals, rather than building up the collections of a new museum. However, there is no doubting his devotion to the work he had undertaken.

Before his appointment a select committee had been named to enquire into and report upon the working of the Queensland Museum. Apparently, this was an effort by the authorities to ascertain what was required in the way of funds for the proper functioning of the Museum in the new building. At any rate, in the Trustees' report for 1882, the Parliament was thanked for the liberal manner in which their needs had been met. Emphasis was laid upon collecting, and Kendall Broadbent was appointed for this purpose. Broadbent had collected in Victoria for some years for Professor (afterwards Sir) Frederick McCoy who took over the direction of the infant National Museum of Victoria in 1857. In the same report the Trustees recorded their appreciation of the gratuitous assistance given by Henry Tryon in the work of collection and investigation during the past year. This was a forerunner to Tryon's appointment as Assistant Curator in charge of invertebrates.



Figure 1.

The first building erected for the Queensland Museum, William Street, Brisbane.

Behind the fine facade of the new museum building in William Street beside the river, there was little to praise. There was not sufficient space for existing collections, and storage and staff accommodation apparently had not been considered. Very soon the plea for space became a regular feature of the Trustees' reports, and at one stage it was remarked that the building was unfit for a museum, but that it may be considered suitable for a library. It does house a library today.

A. C. Gregory, first Chairman of the Board of Trustees, was succeeded in this position in 1883 by Sir A. H. Palmer. Following this change, it is noted that the report signed by the Chairman gradually became smaller until it was only a matter of a few lines of print. On the other hand, De Vis' report to the Trustees became considerably enlarged, and it is apparent that a great deal of his time must have been given to keeping a record of all that was included in his statements for the Trustees. In addition to a lengthy formal portion, he prepared a number of appendices under the following headings: I. Classified List of Donations, II. Abstract of Collections, III. Alphabetical List of Donors, IV. Additions to Library, V. Purchases,

VI. Exchanges, VII. Visitors, VIII. Attendance of Trustees, IX. Mr. Wallman's Report, and so on. Keeping records for the report and appendices, identifying material as it came in daily from the general public and from his collectors, dealing with numerous inquiries throughout each day, and attempting to prepare papers on new material for publication as well as managing the general affairs of the Museum with a minimum of staff, was indeed a tremendous task. It is to be remembered, too, that De Vis commenced as Curator at the late age of fifty-three years.

Nine Trustees constituted the Board, but it was seldom that more than two or three were present at any one meeting. Commonly two or three Trustees would go through a whole year without attending one meeting of the Board. Yet, in 1888, Sir A. H. Palmer commenced his brief report of about twelve lines of print with the statement that "Under our direction the management of the Museum continues to give us entire satisfaction."

Over a period of years, Kendall Broadbent continued to do good work in the field. Series of vertebrate animals were obtained from many widely separated localities, and he collected fossil vertebrates in the Darling Downs district. At various times, geological collectors were in the field, but either they resigned after a period or the Museum finances would not permit retention of their services. Henry Tryon continued as Assistant Curator in charge of invertebrates and in 1888, Charles Hedley, who later became a well-known worker on molluscs in the Australian Museum, Sydney, was appointed a temporary assistant in Malacology.

The difficulties arising from shortage of space and staff were to increase. In 1888, native material began to come in from New Guinea and the New Hebrides, and in 1889, Sir William MacGregor, Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator of British New Guinea, signified his intention to donate his magnificent collection of New Guinea ethnological material and birds to the Queensland Museum. At this time, Charles Hedley spent some time in New Guinea under Sir William MacGregor, but he became ill and upon his return to Brisbane, he had to resign his position owing to the state of his health. It was impossible for De Vis and his few assistants to cope with the material on hand, quite apart from additional large accessions, and it should be remembered that in the climate of south-eastern Queensland, expert curating of collections is an even greater need than in a purely temperate climate.

However, hope for the provision of another new building was still very much alive. In 1885, the Government of the day had set aside a sum of £40,000 for this purpose, and in 1890 the Board of Trustees examined plans for the proposed building. Tenders for its construction were called, but the Government failed to accept any of the tenders submitted. It was stated that the present building had been brought to a fair state of repair, and with this the subject seems to have been dropped.

If shortage of space, staff, and probably funds were cause for concern in the first ten years of De Vis' curatorship, worse was yet to come. All the Australian colonies were seriously affected by the financial blight of 1893. Values in every sphere tumbled, and many banks were unable for a time to meet their commitments. The museum staff was reduced to three, consisting of the Curator and two Attendants (Kendall Broadbent and C. J. Wild) both of whom previously had been field collectors. The sum of £650 was provided to meet the salaries of the staff and the general expenses of the museum. The position was really serious, and for De Vis, at sixty-four years of age, the state of affairs must have been a severe trial.

The first duty of a curator or director of a museum is the care of collections on hand, especially the reference or study collections. This is something that is not appreciated even today by those not experienced in museum work. To do this work effectively requires knowledge, time and labour, even when the collections are contained in properly constructed cabinets and cases. But De Vis had only a number of ill-constructed cabinets and cases, and there is little doubt that we suffer for this today. The general run of museums contain a considerable amount of irreplaceable material, and the Queensland Museum was no exception in this respect even in the early years. The magnificent collection of New Guinea material presented by Sir William MacGregor suffered severely. Duplicates were sent to other institutions as gifts, and the remainder was packed in boxes and ultimately stored in a shed!

The first issue of the *Annals of the Queensland Museum* was published in 1891, and a second part appeared the following year, but owing to the financial position, No. 3 was not published until 1897. The *Annals* became a new medium for De Vis' papers based on the collections. Previously, he had published mostly through the Royal Society of Queensland and the Royal and Linnean Societies of New South Wales.

With the coming of the financial slump, A. Norton became Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1893, and the lengthy appendices and statement by the Curator were no longer published as part of the Annual Report, probably as a means of economising. This was no loss; indeed, had the time which must have been given to their preparation been devoted to a proper system of registration and card indexing, the museum, then and now, would have gained immeasurably. A point of interest is the fact that the Board of Trustees was not constituted by Act of Parliament; the members appear to have been appointed by the Executive Council. At various times the Trustees remarked upon the anomaly of their position and requested that steps should be taken to provide them with legal standing. This was never done, and it is difficult to see what difference any alteration in their status would have brought about. Most of them seem to have had little interest in the institution as

evidenced by their poor record of attendances at meetings, and nothing of any moment seems to have been accomplished by them. This is really not surprising. Museum work is highly specialized, and Trustees are not appointed because of their knowledge of this work.

1900-1955.

Norton was a member of the Legislative Council, and judging by his reports, he keenly desired to do his best for the museum. The need for greater space was constantly stressed, and soon after the authorities had dropped the idea of providing another new building, they offered the use of the National Association Building in Bowen Park to the Board. This was accepted, and in 1900, the collections were moved to the building in which they remain to this day. The new move provided much more display space, while leaving a great deal to be desired aesthetically and from the point of view of convenience within the building, but storage and working space



Figure 2.

The present Queensland Museum building, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane.

behind the scenes remained and continues to be a problem. In recent years, portion of the display area has been taken over to provide storage, but the difficulties increase with the passage of time. To store, care for, and work collections of a modern museum of consequence, requires twice the space behind the scenes as that which is given to public display.

The museum appears to have been closed throughout the year 1900, but by January, 1901, all was ready and it was reopened to the public. De Vis was now seventy-two years of age, and doubtless he was a tired man. One or two new appointments were made, all of little consequence, except for A. Alder who became taxidermist in 1905.

The last report issued by the Board of Trustees was for 1901. The general impression is that within the Museum matters were going from bad to worse. There was no one on the staff, with the exception of the ageing De Vis, with any competence in the work, and if the Trustees were making any effort to improve staff and conditions, it is apparent that they were having no success. In 1903, the museum as a sub-department was transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the Department of Agriculture and Stock. No explanation for this change can be given. In 1905, De Vis was retired at the age of seventy-six, and C. J. Wild, who was an insect collector, was appointed acting Director. De Vis was named as "scientific consultant."

Control of the museum was again changed from the Department of Agriculture and Stock to that of the Chief Secretary's Department in 1907. It is possible that responsible individuals were feeling concerned about the state of affairs, and this final move brought the institution under the Premier of the day. Again, one or two junior appointments were made, and by 1910, the Premier decided to take action. He obtained the services of the curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney (Robert Etheridge, junr.), from the Premier of New South Wales, and requested this officer to investigate the affairs of the Queensland Museum and report to him in person.

The Etheridge report was informative and fair, and the recommendations made were practical. The main outcome was the appointment of Dr. Ronald Hamlyn-Harris as director of the museum which became a sub-department without a Board of Trustees. Hamlyn-Harris was not a museum worker, but his background and training were excellent. He had been educated at schools in England and Germany, and he was graduated as a Doctor of Science from the ancient University of Tübingen in Germany. He had carried out research at the Naples Marine Biological Aquarium, and had travelled widely.

On accepting the appointment, Hamlyn-Harris very wisely visited the museums in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, and he benefited greatly from the sage advice of Robert Etheridge, junr. His task was a mighty one, but he set to work with a will. He had to clean the entire building, fumigate, reorganise collections and library, and build up a staff. Henry Hacker, a capable man of the old school, was appointed entomologist; H. A. Longman, a naturalist whom Hamlyn-Harris had come to know in Toowoomba, was appointed senior assistant; A. Alder was taxidermist with M. J. Colclough as assistant and T. C. Marshall as a cadet. A

librarian was appointed, and among others, mention should be made of Miss Eileen G. Murphy who became shorthand-typist. Miss Murphy has continued through to the present on the staff of the Queensland Museum.

Great progress was made under Hamlyn-Harris's direction. The collections, which had suffered severely, were consolidated and gradual rebuilding was commenced. The display series was improved, lectures both for school children and adults were undertaken, and, altogether, the museum came to life. The *Memoirs* replaced the *Annals of the Queensland Museum* as a medium of publication, and Hamlyn-Harris contributed some excellent papers on native peoples and their material culture.

He showed great enthusiasm and ability, but the authorities, probably as a result of their experience prior to Hamlyn-Harris's appointment, tended to restrict his endeavours. He was not allowed the full responsibility of museum management, and those who applied the restrictions had little knowledge of the museum, its work and its needs. With the coming of the 1914-18 war, funds were reduced for most cultural activities, and the museum was no exception. Hamlyn-Harris persevered, but the difficulties normally present and those placed in his path began to affect his health and he resigned in August, 1917. His resignation must have been regretted by all concerned with the welfare and progress of the museum. He had worked hard and had accomplished much in the short period of six years.

Heber A. Longman, the senior officer on the staff, was appointed in the following year to succeed Hamlyn-Harris. His was not an easy assignment. His interest in living reptiles gave way to a study of fossil vertebrates upon which he published a number of papers in the next twenty-five years.

The death of A. Alder, the taxidermist, in 1915 was a loss which had not been overcome. M. J. Colclough was appointed in his place, but the latter's position as assistant was not filled. However, by way of compensation, T. C. Marshall, who commenced as a cadet under Hamlyn-Harris, was now preparing excellent painted casts of fishes for display, examples of which he continued to produce over a period. In addition to many other duties, and following on the earlier work of J. D. Ogilby, Marshall also continued to build up a fine study collection of Queensland fishes.

A few well-prepared mounts of foreign mammals were purchased abroad, and some display cases and storage cabinets were constructed, but bad times were again on the way. During the so-called depression period commencing in 1929, H. Hacker, the entomologist, who had worked tirelessly to build up the insect collections, and M. J. Colclough, taxidermist, transferred to other departments. The loss of two senior men from a very small staff was disastrous. Colclough had to be reinstated at the end of three years, and Hacker attended at the museum on one and a half days each week. The small, capable staff which Hamlyn-Harris had brought together was breaking up.

Only one new appointment was made ; K. Jackson, a young man who was especially keen on ethnological work took up duty in 1937. At the outbreak of war in 1939, he entered the Army, and in 1943, to the great regret of all who knew him, he was killed in New Guinea.

During the 1939-1945 war, T. C. Marshall, after more than thirty years' service, and the librarian at the time, transferred to other departments. At this stage, the staff was reduced to the director, a clerk, a temporary employee in the library, and three or four attendants on duty in the halls. This meant that the collections which had been saved and added to under Hamlyn-Harris were subject to serious deterioration once more.

Longman suffered considerable ill-health in 1945, and, as he was close to the retiring age, I was appointed in October of that year and became director early in 1946.

PRESENT AND FUTURE.

In the past ten years (1946-1955) considerable change has taken place in the Queensland Museum, and this has been made possible through the consideration shown by the Queensland governmental authorities. It is a privilege to pay tribute to those who have provided every reasonable facility for the advancement of the museum.

Staff, and the means to train and keep the staff at work with a purpose were the outstanding needs. Every assistance has been given in these matters. Improved working accommodation was readily provided, and equipment has been and continues to be obtained as the need arises. For a variety of reasons, which need not be detailed here, it has always been difficult to find both graduate and non-graduate staff for work in Australian museums. In this respect, Queensland has been fortunate in recent years, but the position is still far from satisfactory. The Sir William MacGregor collection, for example, which has suffered much from the time it was presented, is still without a curator. It receives attention at present, and this has not always been the case, but it is not yet possible to work this and other collections as they deserve to be worked.

North-eastern Australia (Queensland) has a greater concentration of fauna than any similar area in this country, and the basic work of collecting, describing and recording relationships has lagged in this State. In the main, work of this nature is carried out by museum staffs, and it is not yet generally realised how important the resulting information is from the point of view of the material welfare of the State and country. For example, soil erosion is a serious matter in Australia, and it is not possible to overcome and prevent soil erosion unless we know and understand the relationships of animals, plants and soil, and knowing this, conserve in reasonable proportion the native fauna and flora.

The energies of the present staff have been largely devoted to the preparation of new displays on modern lines for the public, and once more, the treatment and consolidation of collections has taken much time. This work, even with additional staff and numerous new storage cabinets, will have to be continued for many years before a reasonably satisfactory state of collections is attained. The building has been wired throughout for electric light and power, providing for good general lighting and for the use of vacuum cleaners, polishing machines and other mechanical equipment. Fluorescent lighting has been installed in all new display cases. Instructive films are shown to the public at suitable intervals, series of public lectures are now provided, in addition to the considerable number given each year to various outside bodies, and classes of school children attend throughout the school year for lessons supported by pertinent films. This last activity has developed entirely at the request of teachers in and near the metropolitan area. It is hoped that the work will be extended and that it will become possible to provide the usual travelling case exhibits for country schools, but for this purpose, it will be necessary to have teachers seconded to the museum, and teachers are in short supply.

In the past four years a refresher course in Natural Science for teachers has been conducted in the museum during long vacations. The course lasts for one week, and teachers have responded with marked enthusiasm and appreciation. The response of the general public, too, has been altogether gratifying, not only in the greatly increased number of visitors and the attention which they give to the displays, but in the desire shown for information. Specimens of all kinds and correspondence are received daily, and it is remarkable the amount of material which has been added to the collections in this way. The desire to know and understand something of the natural life around them is characteristic of a large section of the population.

Field work, that is, the collecting and preserving of specimens necessary both for display and study, is a normal function of a museum. So far, a limited amount has been done, but now it is imperative that fresh material should be obtained in many sections. Staff is required for this purpose, but efforts will be made whenever present members can be spared for periods even of one or two weeks.

Finally, the great need for more space for display and especially for storage and working room behind the scenes must be stressed once more. To do justice to the State collections and provide facilities for greater service to the public, a modern museum building is required. Extensive repairs of various kinds have been carried out to the present building at intervals since 1946. The work done was necessary to maintain a large government structure in a reasonable state of repair. It has provided a much more favourable background for the new, instructive displays, and the encouraging response shown by all concerned to what has been accomplished so far provides good reason to look to the future with confidence.

STAFF—1955.

Director	..	..	..	..	George Mack
Geology and Palaeontology	..				Jack T. Woods
Zoology	..	..	..	..	George Mack Shirley B. Gunn Margaret B. Wilson
Preparation	..	..	..	..	D. P. Vernon M. E. McAnna G. W. Ayre
Art	..	..	..	..	Valerie B. Smeed Jennifer J. Trivett
Library	..	..	..	..	Jennifer J. Uscinski
Photography	..	..	..	..	Roland V. Oldham
Office	..	..	..	..	Eileen G. Murphy Shirley A. Landy
Attendants	..	..	..	..	M. P. Beirne (Senior), C. J. Yorke, G. Walker, C. O. Bowman, J. Jones, A. J. Watson, L. F. Platt.

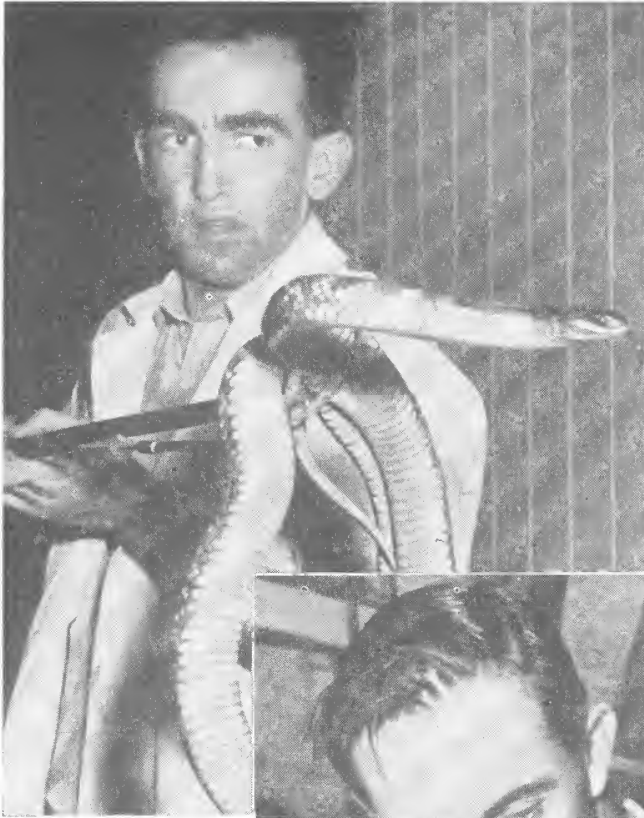


Figure 3.

A large specimen of the rare Variegated Snake (*Pseudechis colletti*) held with a snake-stick.

[*Courier-Mail photo.*]



Figure 4.

Removing latex cast of the Water Dragon (*Physignathus lesueurii*) from a mould.

[*Courier-Mail photo.*]



Figure 5.
Painting latex casts of Frilled Lizards (*Chlamydosaurus kingii*.)

[Courier-Mail photo.]



Figure 6.
Mounting a female specimen of the Superb Lyrebird (*Menura novae-hollandiae*).



Figure 7.
Reconstructing fossil skull of an extinct marsupial.

[Telegraph photo.]

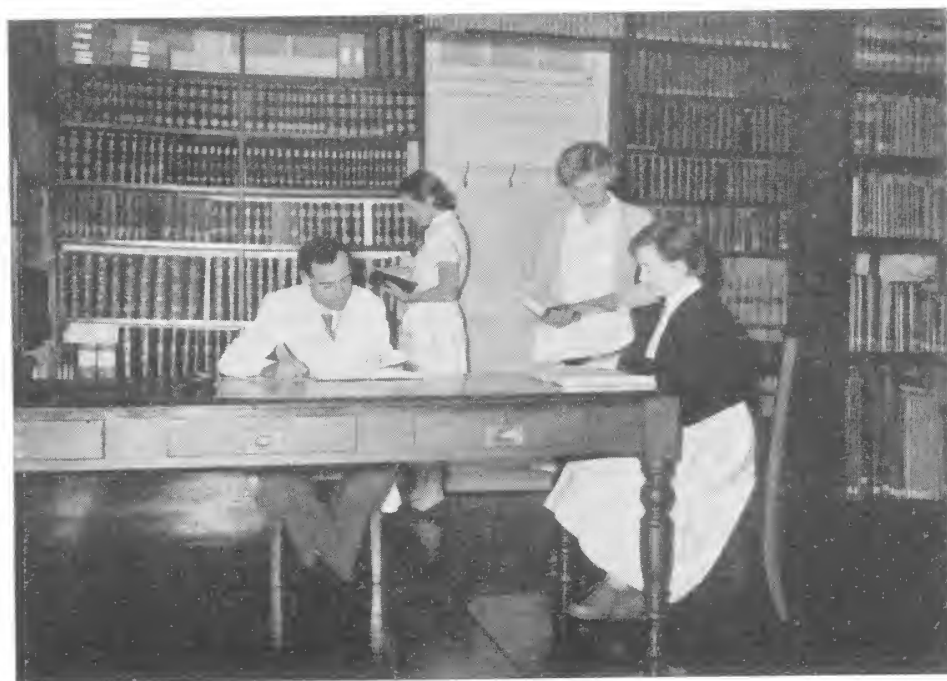


Figure 8.
A corner of the library of about 30,000 volumes.



Figure 9.
Teachers examining specimens during a refresher course.

[*Courier-Mail photo.*]

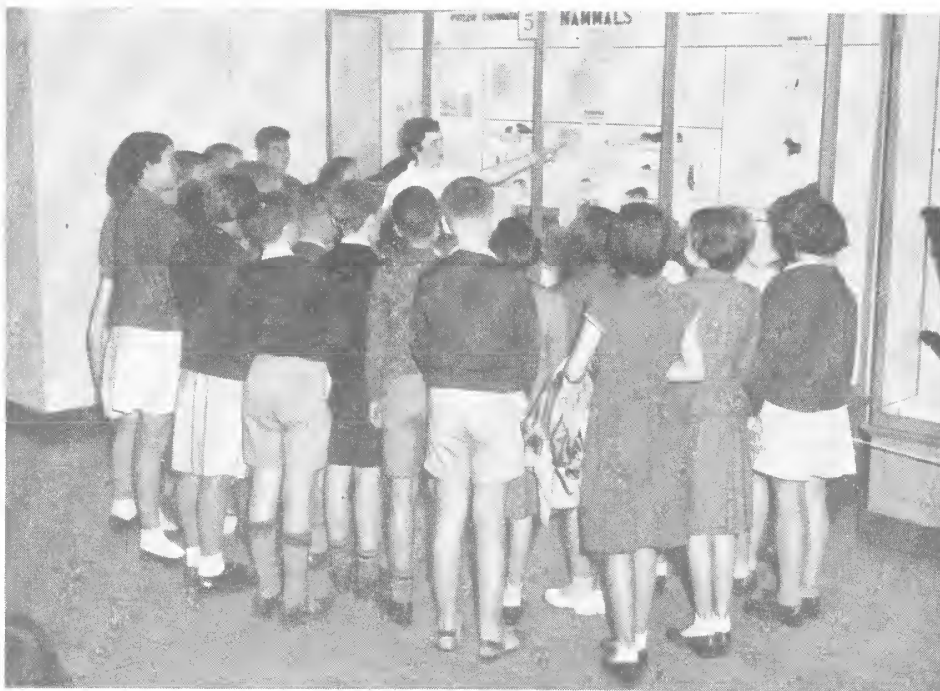


Figure 10.
A lesson on marsupial mammals to a class of children.